

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 08339

FOR ACDA DIRECTOR WARNKE FROM AMBASSADOR BENNETT

EUR FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO, MBFR
SUBJECT: MBFR: TRILATERAL CONSULTATIONS

REF: STATE 230740

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1. I AM SURPRISED AND DISAPPOINTED THAT IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO FIND A WAY TO INCLUDE A REPRESENTATIVE OF USNATO IN DELEGATION FOR FORTHCOMING MBFR TRILATERAL IN BONN. I AM AFRAID USNATO STANDS AT SUCH A DISTANCE AS TO BE DISADVANTAGED IN THE WASHINGTON JOCKEYING FOR PLACES ON DELEGATIONS TO EUROPEAN MEETINGS, AND I WOULD VERY MUCH APPRECIATE YOUR HELP IN THE PRESENT SITUATION.

2. BOTH BRITISH AND GERMAN NATO MISSIONS WILL HAVE REPRESENTATIVES ON THEIR RESPECTIVE DELEGATIONS AT BONN TRILATERAL. SINCE USNATO WILL HAVE IMMEDIATE FOLLOW-ON RESPONSIBILITIES HERE WITH RESPECT TO IMPLEMENTING DECISIONS OF TRILATERAL AND SINCE I BELIEVE US SHOULD PLAY AT LEAST AS PROMINENT A ROLE HERE AS UK AND FRG, THE FAILURE TO INCLUDE ANY USNATO REPRESENTATION IN OUR TRILATERAL DELEGATION IS AN UNFORTUNATE DISCRIMINATION.
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3. GIVEN OUR RESPONSIBILITIES HERE, I NOTE INCLUSION OF SEVERAL AGENCIES AND INDIVIDUALS ON US DEL WHO IMPRESS ME AS LESS RELEVANT TO MBFR PROCESS THAN THIS MISSION. SINCE BUDGETARY RESTRAINT NECESSARILY PLAYS A PART IN COMPOSITION OF OUR DELEGATIONS, THEN I SUBMIT THAT SENDING A MAN DOWN THE ROAD TO BONN FROM HERE OFFERS USG AN

ECONOMY WHICH SPEAKS FOR ITSELF VIS-A-VIS A PARTICIPANT
FROM FAR AWAY WASHINGTON.

4. I PUT NO GREAT EMPHASIS OF WHETHER JACK MENDLESOHN
OF THIS MISSION SHOULD BE INCLUDED AS A NAME ON THE
DELEGATION LIST OR NOT ALTHOUGH I AM CONFIDENT HIS
PRESENCE WOULD NOT ENCUMBER THE ATMOSPHERE OF FRANK AND
INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WHICH STATE'S MESSAGE EMPHASIZES AND
WHICH I AGREE IT IS DESIRABLE TO MAINTAIN. ACCORDINGLY,
WITH YOUR CONCURRENCE, I WOULD PROPOSE TO SEND MENDLESOHN
TO BONN TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE DELEGATION IF IT IS
NOT POSSIBLE TO CARRY HIM AS A MEMBER. IN THAT WAY WE
COULD ABSORB THE ATMOSPHERE AND NUANCES OF THE TALKS.
HIS KNOWLEDGE OF CURRENT TACTICAL LIMITS AT NATO HEAD-
QUARTERS MIGHT EVEN CONCEIVABLY BE USEFUL TO THE DELEGATION
IT WOULD BE GREATLY HELPFUL TO ME WITH MY FOLLOW-ON
RESPONSIBILITIES HERE TO HAVE HIS FIRST-HAND ACCOUNT OF
BONN PROCEEDINGS LAID ON HIS BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE OF LOCAL
SITUATION HERE. IN ALL FRANKNESS, THIS WOULD BE MORE
USEFUL TO ME THAN TO HAVE A DEBRIEF FROM WASHINGTON
PARTICIPANT, ALTHOUGH I AM OF COURSE GLAD TO HAVE THAT TOO.
I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR COOPERATION. WARM REGARDS.
BENNETT

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